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# Annotated article by Charles Whaley sent to Courier-Journal, Louisville, KY, 21 September 1962

Charles Whaley

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to  
The Courier-Journal  
Louisville, Ky.

DAY PRESS RATES

from Charles Whaley  
Ole Miss Hotel

1962 SEP 21 PM 5 02

Oxford, Miss., Sept. 21--whaley--It doesn't seem quite right. Surely some tangible trace should remain here at the University of Mississippi of the furor Thursday over a Negro's attempt to enroll as a student.

But even that shattering episode, which seems certain to deal the death blow to segregation in the state's schools, appeared Friday to have been absorbed and forgotten in placid Mississippi fashion.

On their first day of classes the students at Ole Miss roamed the sunny campus looking just like students anywhere else.

What were <sup>(they)</sup> thinking? ~~Some~~ Some politely declined to talk but many more <sup>if they weren't</sup> were willing to speak their minds ~~without being~~ identified.

The general feeling seems to be that <sup>the battle</sup> ~~it~~ is out of their hands. They are depending on Governor Ross Barnett <sup>(to keep out James Meredith and all other)</sup> Negroes and they are wild in praise of him. <sup>student</sup> "He's all but God to us," one Mississippi ~~cried~~ cried enthusiastically as he sat with a group of fraternity brothers.

Yet if it comes to admitting Negroes or closing down the university <sup>probably</sup> ~~the~~ the students would <sup>prefer to</sup> ~~not~~ admit Negroes. The boy who compared Barnett to God said he would rather abolish Ole Miss <sup>than go to class with Negroes</sup> ~~than go to class with Negroes~~.

But he estimated the students - about 5,000 are enrolled - are split 50-50 on this. The very student newspaper ~~has~~ "the students have almost overwhelmingly expressed a desire to continue their education without any interruption."



And the faculty?

It has not raised its voice although the students and professors agreed it is predominantly liberal on the question of mixed classes.

~~"We have not heard any voice raised by the students or the faculty."~~  
~~they have not heard any voice raised by the students or the faculty."~~

Most faculty members are non-Mississippians, <sup>one professor</sup> said, but thought that made little difference. ~~the most bigoted~~ <sup>faculty member</sup> professor He said the most bigoted ~~professor~~, in his opinion, was one from Wisconsin.

The professor called Barnett "the most ignorant governor we've ever had."

"Everything Barnett has done has been wrong constitutionally, historically, and logically."

~~The professor was hopeful~~

"I ~~was~~ was disappointed that the state college board did not stand up to Barnett," ~~the board gave Barnett power to~~ ~~control the college registrar~~ he continued. "But I believe the chancellor--J. D. Williams, Dr. John D. Williams, a native of Newport, Ky., and former University of Kentucky professor--will bow to the Federal Court (which has cited him for contempt) and admit Meredith."

~~we have had Negroes as students~~

"Oddly enough we have had Negroes as students here in the past but they were not admitted as Negroes but as Puerto Ricans. There was no problem."

~~As there many students who do not object to~~

~~The~~ Ole Miss also has a number of foreign students,  <sup>natives of India</sup> some of them dark-skinned ~~professors~~. ~~These~~ But they usually stay to themselves, said the professor. (more)



=  
Some of the students vow there will be violence if Meredith succeeds in enrolling. It came dangerously near Thursday, they said, when one boy began tossing rocks at Meredith. [REDACTED]

"I was frightened," <sup>acknowledged</sup> [REDACTED] the fraternity man who lauded Barnett. But he said he had not been [REDACTED] frightened enough to change his views on race. [REDACTED]

Meredith [REDACTED] will surely be killed sooner or later if he becomes a student, <sup>asserted the fraternity boys,</sup> [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Meredith  
Their greatest fury was reserved, however, for Attorney-General Robert Kennedy, whom they regard as the villain in the case. Kennedy, they swore, probably would have been killed by students if he had appeared to help Meredith enroll.

<sup>Ole Miss</sup> [REDACTED] students who  
Are there any [REDACTED] could be called liberals on the race question?

<sup>there are</sup>  
Some, the boys acknowledged, but a small group--"and even though they say they're liberal, they're still segregationist."

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